

Over the last 10 years, Ed has worked as a senior foreign policy advisor for Majority Leaders ROBERT BYRD and George Mitchell and for Minority Leader THOMAS DASCHLE.

I first came to know Ed King while he was working on the Democratic Policy Committee. I also came to respect and admire Ed as he went from legislative crisis to crisis with the same calm but determined and effective demeanor that I am sure served him and his troops so well as a combat infantry officer. Whether the issue was pop-up legislation dealing with the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Haiti, or Bosnia or setting up a routine meeting for Senators with a visiting foreign official Ed was always on top of the situation, always in full control of the facts, and ready with a solution to bridge ostensibly irreconcilable positions. And despite the stress and the raised voices on the part of some, Ed never lost his good nature and sense of humor.

But what I remember most of all were the numerous occasions on which a long stint of negotiations ended with the parties agreed on the general framework of a solution and leaving it to Ed to come up with the specific text that embodied that general solution. And you knew that the specific text would be ready the first thing the next morning and that it would have been agreed to on all sides at the staff level and vetted with and acceptable to the administration.

Mr. President, the Senate is losing one of its finest staff members. The Nation is losing a fine public servant whose contributions will, for the most part, remain unknown. I, for one, want the record to reflect that this Senator appreciates the service that Ed King has rendered to the Senate and the Nation. I know that he will be successful in the private sector and that he will continue to make a contribution in whatever he does in the future.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, March 27, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,069,500,044,702.95.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman and child in America owes \$19,165.10 as his or her share of that debt.

It is no wonder that babies come into this world crying.

A TRIBUTE TO GERTRUDE MALLARD PRITCHER

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to wish a very happy birthday to Gertrude Mallard Pritcher of St. George, SC. Mrs. Pritcher will turn 100 years old on April 13.

The 11th of 12 children, Gertrude Pritcher was born in Colleton County in 1896 to John Behlin and Annie Eliza Liston Hucks. In the history of her life, one can trace the history of the South

Carolina Lowcountry. She grew up in Smoaks, where she taught school in a one-room schoolhouse, and Sunday school at a Methodist Church. Throughout the 1930s, '40s and '50s, she lived in Beaufort County where she was active in home demonstration clubs, specializing in gardening, cooking and sewing. A member of Daughters of the American Revolution, Mrs. Pritcher has three daughters and one son by her first husband, William Daniel Mallard of Summerville. They were married for almost 50 years, until his death in 1965. Mrs. Pritcher married Asbury Pritcher of Beaufort County in 1972 who has also passed away.

Like a true Southerner, she has a love of and flair for storytelling. With her knowledge of the counties of South Carolina, and with all the family and friends she has, you can bet she has some good ones to tell. She enjoyed a healthy and active life for 85 years, until a stroke in 1981. The condition curtailed her activity somewhat, but she continues to live comfortably in St. George where her children and grandchildren enjoy her company, and her tales. Let's all hope that we can have as rich a life.

THE FLAG AMENDMENT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, the February, 1996 issue of the American Legion Magazine contains a column entitled, "We Will Continue To Stand By Our Flag," by Daniel A. Ludwig, national commander of the American Legion. As my colleagues know, the American Legion, other veterans and civics groups, the Citizens Flag Alliance, and countless individuals undertook an effort to pass a constitutional amendment authorizing protection of the American flag. There was nothing in it for any of the participants in that great effort. This effort fell just short in the Senate. But, I note that in 1989 an amendment received 51 votes; in 1990, 58 votes; and in 1995, 63 votes. In the other body, the effort went from falling short in 1989 to an overwhelming win in 1995.

I said in December that the effort to enact a constitutional amendment authorizing protection of the American flag will be back. And so it will, as the column by Commander Ludwig makes clear. I ask unanimous consent that the column be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the American Legion Magazine, Feb. 1996]

WE WILL CONTINUE TO STAND BY OUR FLAG (By Daniel A. Ludwig)

By the time you read this, the postmortems on the Senate vote on the flag amendment will largely have subsided. The media may finally have stopped smirking their smirks of (supposed) intellectual superiority. The constitutional scholars who were thrust into an unaccustomed limelight will have gone back to their universities to continue the debate in quieter fashion. The

public-interest groups who took sides against us—and, we always believed, against the public interest—will have turned their attention to other cherished aspects of traditional American life that need to be "modernized," which is to say, cheapened or twisted or gutted altogether.

Observers have suggested that we, too, should give up the fight. Enough is enough, they say. "You gave it your best, now it's time to pack it in." Those people don't understand what the past six years, since the 1989 Supreme Court decision, have really been about.

From the beginning of our efforts, debate centered on the issue of free speech and whether the proposed amendment infringes on it. But whether flag desecration is free speech, or an abuse of free speech, as Orrin Hatch suggests (and we agree), there is a larger point here that explains why we can't—shouldn't—just fold up our tents and go quietly.

Our adversaries have long argued that opposition to the amendment is not the same as opposition to the flag itself, that it's possible to love the flag and yet vote against protecting it. Perhaps in the best of all possible worlds we could accept such muddled thinking.

Sadly, we do not live in the best of all possible worlds.

In the best of all possible worlds it would not be necessary to install metal detectors in public schools, or have drunk-driving checkpoints on our highways, or give mandatory drug tests to prospective airline employees. Indeed, in the best of all possible worlds, the Pope would not have to make his rounds in a bulletproof vehicle. In all of these cases, we have willingly made certain sacrifices in freedom because we recognize that there are larger interests at stake. In the case of the metal detectors, for example, the safety of our children, and our teachers, and the establishment of a stable climate for instruction to take place, is paramount.

If the flag amendment is about anything, it's about holding the line on respect, on the values that you and I asked our lives to preserve. We live in a society that respects little and honors still less. Most, if not all, of today's ills can be traced to a breakdown in respect—for laws, for traditions, for people, for the things held sacred by the great bulk of us.

Just as the godless are succeeding at removing God from everyday life, growing numbers of people have come to feel they're not answerable to anything larger than themselves. The message seems to be that nothing takes priority over the needs and desires and "rights" of the individual. Nothing is forbidden. Everything is permissible, from the shockingly vulgar music that urges kids to go out and shoot cops, to "art" that depicts Christ plunging into a vat of urine—to the desecration of a cherished symbol like the U.S. Flag.

Are these really the freedoms our forefathers envisioned when they drafted the Bill of Rights? Thomas Jefferson himself did not regard liberty as a no-strings proposition. His concept of democracy presupposed a nation of honorable citizens. Remove the honorable motives from a free society and what you have left is not democracy, but anarchy. What you have left, eventually, is Lord of the Flies.

Amid all this, the flag stands for something. If respect for the flag were institutionalized, and children were brought up to understand the unique collection of principles it represents, there would be inevitable benefits to society, benefits that would help turn the tide of today's chaos and disrespect. For no one who takes such principles to heart—no one who sees the flag as